

# REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending the 12th April 1902.

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## I—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th April writes as follows:—

The Chinese Empire has been saved from destruction by want of unity, and jealousy and distrust among the Western Powers. Their armies were engaged in China more in suppressing one another than in quelling disorders in that country. When Russia swallowed Manchuria, China had not the strength to oppose her. But the other Powers became jealous of her, and this jealousy has now given China an opportunity of recovering Manchuria. China has come to understand that in spite of the strength of the Western Powers their mutual jealousy has made them almost impotent. And the Anglo-Japanese Treaty has served to strengthen this belief. No wonder that under such circumstances China should assert herself and try to recover her old glory. With this object, says the *Peking* correspondent of the *Times*, she has refused the German demand for an extension of rights over the Shan Tung mines. With the same object she is urging Russia to leave Manchuria. It will be a happy thing if all this does not lead to fresh wars.

HITAVADI,  
April 4th, 1902.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st April says that the

The chaukidari tax in the Bankura district.

people of the Bankura district are loud in their complaints regarding the imposition of the chaukidari tax. It is said that even day-labourers are being taxed. In former times, the rate was small; but it has been raised since the appointment of daffadars, etc. The people of the district are, however, very poor, and if the tax cannot be done away with altogether, the old lower rate ought to be restored.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
April 1st, 1902.

3. *Al PUNCH* [Patna city] of the 5th April is glad that the promptitude

The Gaya police in the late Bakr-Id festival.

with which the District Magistrate and the Police officers of Gaya made arrangements during the last *Bakr-Id* festival, did not give the Hindus of Doudnagar sufficient time to carry out their plot on the day of the festival. The Hindus of that place were ready to snatch away the cows intended for slaughter by Musalmans, but the local police dispersed them. The credit for this timely action largely belongs to the Sub-Inspector Valayet Hossain.

AL PUNCH,  
April 5th, 1902.

4. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th April says that on the 23rd

A boat accident near Serampore.

March last a passenger boat struck against a sunken flat in the Hooghly river below Ballavpur near Serampore and sank, and thirty lives were lost. A searching enquiry should be instituted into the matter in order to ascertain for whose fault so many lives were lost. Where were the river police when the boat sank? The sunken flat has remained at the place for a long time and many boats have been lost by colliding with it. But no signal still indicates the danger to boatmen.

BANGAVASI,  
April 5th, 19 02.

5. The same paper says that during the last few months a fierce man-

A man eater in the Koderma reserve forest in the Hazaribagh district.

eater has killed forty people in broad daylight in the Koderma reserve forest in the Hazaribagh district. It has grown so very daring that a few days ago it carried away a sardar cooly of Babu Rajkrishna Sahana's mica mines from the midst of a large number of coolies. Thousands of coolies work in the mica mines in the forest, and other people also resort to it for bamboos, grass, myrabolams, mahua, &c., for which they hold leases from the Government. The matter therefore requires the special and immediate attention of the Government. The attention of rich people, like Maharaja Suryya Kanta, of the country, with whom hunting is a pleasure, is also drawn to the matter. They will find plenty of sport and charming scenery here.

BANGAVASI.

6. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 5th April complains that much

Malpractices at the fish market near the Sealdah railway station.

oppression is practised on the poor fishermen and fisherwomen who come from Diamond Harbour and the neighbouring places in what is known as the "vegetable" train, and sell fish wholesale at the fish market, which is held early in the morning at Boitakhana in front of the Sealdah station gate. We have

RANGALAYA,  
April 5th, 1902.



ourselves seen rogues stealing fish or openly taking fish away, the constable on the beat having a share in the booty. The constable also exacts fish direct from the dealers. Will the Police Commissioner order an inquiry?

PRATIVASI,  
April 7th, 1902.

7. A correspondent, writing to the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th April, complains that pilgrims to the Barhaba Kunda, a sacred hot-spring a little to the south of Sita Kunda in the Chittagong district, are not allowed access during the hours of the day by the Mohant in charge of it. The result is that there is a large rush of pilgrims when the doors are thrown open. During the last *Sivaratri* day, a woman lost her life in the great rush of pilgrims there. The authorities should take note of this unfortunate occurrence, and compel the Mohant to give access to the pilgrims during all hours of the day so as to avoid rush and crush.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

FARIDPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Mar. 29th, 1902.

8. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th March says that already Rs. 30,000 have been spent on the *butwara*, or partition of Kotalipara in the Faridpur district, and again Rs. 8,000 have been sanctioned for it; still there is no knowing how much it will cost altogether. The result is that owners of small shares are running into debt. The partition work was commenced more than three years ago; and nobody knows when it will be completed. Babu Giris Chandra Sarkar, Deputy Magistrate of Faridpur, who is entrusted with this work, was in charge of some settlement work while at Rangpur; and before entrusting him with the partition of Kotalipur, the District Magistrate of Faridpur ought to have inquired and ascertained what an awful procrastination was there in completing the settlement work at Rangpur. We would request the District Magistrate of Faridpur to keep a strict eye on the partition work now going on at Kotalipur, and to see that it is completed without unnecessary or unjustifiable delay.

BIKASH,  
April 2nd, 1902.

9. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 2nd April says that one Sakhi Charan Mandal, tahsil panchayet of village Baibunia within the Nazirpur outpost in the Backergunge district, was served with a notice to serve as an assessor at Barisal on the 4th February. It so happened, however, that Sakhi Charan had on that very day to be present as an accused person in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate of Pirozepur, and consequently he could not attend at Barisal. The District Judge of Backergunge thereupon issued a notice to Sakhi Charan calling upon him to show cause why he should not be fined for non-attendance at Barisal, and the hearing of the rule was fixed for the 27th February. It so happened again that the hearing of the case against Sakhi Charan at Pirozepur was fixed for the 27th February, and the Deputy Magistrate of Pirozepur granted a certificate to that effect. Sakhi Charan enclosed this certificate in his petition to the District Judge; but the District Judge fined him Rs. 10.

Can anything be more farcical?

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 2nd, 1902.

10. Referring to the Kharagpur shoe-beating case the *Sri-Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April writes as follows:—

The complainant first applied for summonses against both Cheddi and Mr. Bayley, but the Muhammadan Deputy Magistrate of Kharagpur granted summons only against Cheddi. Cheddi's deposition was taken at 11 A.M., on the day of hearing. But it is a matter of great wonder that it is not contained in the record of the case. Probably it was not taken down at all.

At twelve noon Mr. Bayley and the complainant's witnesses came into Court. Mr. Bayley's attendance was inexplicable, because he had not been summoned. The Deputy Magistrate gave him a chair by his side. There was no other person in the room, and they had about an hour's conversation with one another. After this the Deputy Magistrate called the complainant and asked him to compromise the case. The complainant said that he had no objection to do as requested, if Mr. Bayley apologised to him and gave him Rs. 200 as compensation. Mr. Bayley refused to accept the terms. The Deputy Magistrate said that as the case was not compromised it would proceed. He then



dismissed everyone from the room except Mr. Bayley, with whom he had again a private conversation. An hour after the complainant was informed by his pleader that the case was being heard in the Court of Mr. Marr, the Joint-Magistrate. It is a mystery how and under what law the case was transferred from the Deputy Magistrate's file to that of the Joint-Magistrate within so short a time as one hour. The complainant was unable to solve the mystery. If a case has to be transferred from one Court to another the law requires that the grounds of the transfer to be recorded, but we have found no grounds of transfer recorded in the papers of this case. Again, such a transfer is required to be applied for by the defendant. In the case under discussion Mr. Bayley was not a defendant and had, therefore, no right to say anything in this connection. In this state of things how was it possible for the Joint Magistrate to know everything about the case? Did anyone come down from the Himalayas to enlighten him on the subject?

The complainant, however, hastened to Mr. Marr's Court with his witnesses and found Mr. Bayley there. He had four witnesses to support his case, of whom one was his brother. He had incurred much expense in order to bring them to Court. But although they were present Mr. Marr did not take their evidence and dismissed the case on Mr. Bayley's statement as if it was a statement made by a god.

11. The same paper says that in August last Nendi Hariani, a girl of 16 or 17, and two of her relatives complained to a Deputy Magistrate of Dinajpur that Babu Bipin Bihari Dey, the Sub-Inspector of the Chirirbandar outpost, had outraged her modesty. The Deputy Magistrate sent them to the District Magistrate, who took their deposition and ordered another Deputy Magistrate, Babu Atul Krishna Dutta, to inquire into the complaint. Atul Babu reported the case as false and malicious. Nendi and her two relatives were then prosecuted for bringing a false and malicious case, and were committed to the sessions. The Sessions Judge, Mr. Fisher, acquitted them, and, being convinced of the Sub-Inspector's guilt, asked the District Magistrate to inquire into the original case. The latter, however, acquitted the Sub-Inspector on Atul Babu's report and again prosecuted Nendi under section 211 of the Indian Penal Code.

It appears from all this that the case which the Sessions Judge and two assessors had decided to be true was decided by the District Magistrate to be false and malicious, a Judge and a Magistrate arriving at different conclusions from the same evidence. There cannot be a greater judicial scandal than this. Such cases lead people to think that in this country law is only a word of mouth and not a thing that is acted upon. In many cases the lives, reputation and properties of people depend on the whims of Judges. These cases should draw the special attention of the Government. Let Government judge whether Nendi and her relatives brought a false and malicious case against the Sub-Inspector, or the case against him was true.

12. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th April says that the acquittal of the Sub-Inspector, Babu Bipin Bihari De, who was charged with having outraged the modesty of one Nendi Hariani, has created a sensation in Dinajpur. Mr. Garrett, the District Magistrate of Dinajpur, has acquitted him, although his guilt was proved by the Sessions Judge and two assessors. Mr. Garrett gave his decision without even hearing the witnesses for the prosecution. Cases of outrage on female modesty should not be disposed of in such a slipshod manner.

13. The same paper has the following complaints against Mr. Vernède, the Joint-Magistrate of Jalpaiguri:—

Mr. Vernède, the Joint-Magistrate of Jalpaiguri.

(1) On the 6th February last Mr. Vernède perceived, after hearing the evidence of four witnesses for the prosecution in the case *R. versus Bahamadi Nasya* and others under section 379 of the Penal Code that there was no proof of guilt against the accused persons, and tore up the depositions of the witnesses. He then said that he would prosecute two of them, named Kadar Nasya and Tepua Nasya, for perjury, and detained them for some time in Court. But afterwards he let them go as he could not prosecute them by reason of his having torn up their depositions.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BASAR  
PATRIKA.

HITAVADI,  
April 4th, 1902.

HITAVADI.



(2) On the 10th February last Bania Das, a witness in the case *Badia Das versus Rupchand Das* and others under sections 342 and 384 of the Penal Code, was shaken by his shoulders while giving his evidence before Mr. Vernède's Court.

(3) On the 3rd March last an application was made under section 526 of the Criminal Procedure Code on behalf of the defendants in the case *Sonadas versus Rajendra Mukhopadhyaya* and others under sections 147, 224, 225 and 379 of the Penal Code for its transfer from Mr. Vernède's Court to another Court. But Mr. Vernède took the depositions of the witnesses for the prosecution for two days after the submission of the application.

(4) On the 11th March last Durga Das, Tisa Das and Dhanabar Das, three witnesses in the case *R. versus Andharu Das* under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, were pulled by their ears by Mr. Vernède's chaprasi under his order in his camp at Ramsai *hât*.

(5) On the 15th March last Mr. Vernède had the ears of the complainant, in the case *Kuranu Das versus Harek Chand Das* and others, pulled by his chaprasi for getting confused in answering his questions.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 6th, 1902.

14. The Tangail correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 6th April says that Tarifulla Shaikh of village Goongaon in the Ghatail outpost charged his neighbour, Ilim Shaikh, with having kidnapped his wife,

A serious offence lightly punished in the Mymensingh district.

Fuljan Eibi. The Deputy Magistrate of Tangail issued a warrant against Ilim Shaikh; and on his being brought before him, the case was transferred to the file of Mr. Abu Mahomed Gaznavi, an Honorary Magistrate with second class powers. The guilt of the accused was proved and he was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment. Considering the brutal conduct of the accused towards the kidnapped woman, as was clear from the evidence recorded in the case, the sentence is looked upon by the public as quite inadequate; but the trying Magistrate was not empowered to inflict a severer punishment. This could not have happened if the Subdivisional Magistrate of Tangail had tried the case himself; and in view of the frequency of such outrages on females, we request him to see that the culprits do not in future escape with light punishment.

DACCA PRAKASH.

15. The Tangail correspondent of the same paper says that the following notice was issued by the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail on the 22nd March:—

A notice issued by the Subdivisional Magistrate of Tangail.

It is hereby notified for general information that the accused persons are strictly forbidden to enter the precincts of the court with their shoes on. The mukhtars of the court are informed that they will clearly explain this to their clients, and that they are to see that all under-trial prisoners surrendering in court come in leaving their shoes outside the court precincts.

It is hard to believe that a native of Bengal, though seated on the Magisterial bench, should have so far gone out of his way as to issue such a notice. We would request the District Magistrate of Mymensingh to enquire.

(c)—Jails.

NAVA YUG,  
April 5th, 1902.

16. In continuation of what was written in a previous issue (see Report on Native Papers of 5th April 1902, paragraph 18) the Editor of the *Nava Yug* newspaper writes as follows in his issue of the 5th April:—

The next morning the Civil Surgeon in charge of the Jail came to me and asked me why I had not taken the jail meal for some days past.

I said: "I am very ill. I have got fever and I pass blood with urine."

The Civil Surgeon said: "The Civil Hospital Assistant prescribed the use of syringe for you. Why did you not use it?"

I said because the Civil Hospital Assistant had not examined me before he prescribed it, and begged for admission into the Jail Hospital. The Civil Surgeon: "The Jail Hospital is not intended for you, but for the labouring prisoners."

I: "Will my family physician be allowed to attend me in the jail?"

The Civil Surgeon: "That I can't say."

I: "Then shall I die here?"



The Civil Surgeon: "God knows. What are your ailments?"

I: "Fever and urinary disease."

The Civil Surgeon: "Can you give me a history of your ailments?"

I: "Yes, Sir. In August last I was attacked with orchitis."

On the previous day the Doctor Babu had taken away my ticket from the mate. Seeing therefore that he would complain against me, I had kept some boiled rice and curry in my dish to show to the Civil Surgeon what sort of food was given to the prisoners.

The Civil Surgeon took my ticket and wrote on it:—

6-1-02. Suffering from gleet. Inject Condy's warm fluid twice daily.

(Sd.) E. W.

He then asked me why I had not taken boiled rice for some days. I said that I had no inclination to eat, and that I feared that the food might aggravate my disease.

The Civil Surgeon asked why I feared that.

I: "It is impossible to digest the food that is given here."

The Civil Surgeon: "What is the reason that you can't digest what 1,300 prisoners can digest?"

I: "I have no certain information as to whether 1,300 prisoners can digest it or not." "But what I have kept for showing to you," I continued holding up the dish of boiled rice and curry before him, "will, if you kindly look at it, prove that what I have said is true."

The Civil Surgeon glanced at the dish and said: "This arrangement is made not for you alone; it is for 1,300 prisoners. When they do not object to it, why do you object?"

I: "Pardon me, sir. Neither you nor I know what is in the mind of these 1,300 prisoners."

The Civil Surgeon's face showed that he was dissatisfied with me. I said in great distress: "The lives of these 1,300 prisoners depend on your supervision. The food which is given to them every day requires your sanction. But it seems that you perform this duty by placing implicit faith in the honesty of the Doctor Babu." Then I took up a radish leaf and a cabbage leaf from the dish and said: "Kindly look at these things. Even fire has not been able to soften these. I don't think therefore that it is possible for men's stomachs to digest them. Whether I am right or wrong you may see by making the experiment on one of your own men." This enraged him more. He asked angrily: "Why did you order hospital diet on Saturday?" I was astounded to hear this question. It was Madhusudan, the hospital dresser, who had of his own will brought some boiled rice for me from the hospital that day.

The Civil Surgeon did not ask me anything else. But he made the following note on my ticket and went away:—"The Civil Hospital Assistant complains that this prisoner has threatened him, saying that he will write against him in the newspapers after his release. He sent for hospital diet without permission. He asked for special favour from the Civil Hospital Assistant. I request that the matter may be investigated."

A few minutes after this Babu Suklal Datta, the Assistant Jailor, came to me and asked me whether I had any evidence to meet the Civil Surgeon's report. I said: "I am a prisoner. How is it possible for me to have evidence? There is only one man, Srimanta, a fellow-prisoner, who is my witness."

Suklal Babu, Srimanta, and I then went to the Jail Superintendent's room. The Superintendent said to me: "You have shown utmost impertinence towards the Civil Medical Officer." I: "Beg your pardon. I am quite unaware of the jail etiquette." The Superintendent: "Did you send for hospital diet?" I: "Quite absurd! I am a prisoner here; there is none to carry out my orders." The Superintendent: "Did you threaten the Civil Hospital Assistant?" I: "Never. After my admission in the jail I had a talk with him for a few minutes about my illness. The Civil Hospital Assistant, whose name is Ananda Chandra Ray, then presented Madhusudan as his witness. Madhusudan said that he had heard me threatening Ananda Babu. I asked the Superintendent to consider whether it was reasonable to arrive at a conclusion in this matter on the evidence of Madhusudan, who was a dacoit and was undergoing a



punishment of seven years' rigorous imprisonment. The Jailor, who was standing by all this time, asked me about my having ordered hospital diet. I pointed to Madhusudan, and said that it was that man who of his own will had some boiled rice brought for me by a prisoner cook. Madhusudan denied having done this. The Superintendent then asked Srimanta what he knew of the matter. Srimanta said that he did not know whether I had ordered hospital diet or not, but he had seen Madhusudan bring it with the help of a cook.

The Superintendent and the Civil Hospital Assistant had then a conversation with each other. After some time the former said to me: "Do you know that I have got summary power in this jail." I: "I have known it for a long time that the Superintendents in Indian jails exercise unlimited powers over the prisoners, and this is the reason why the public and the press agitate for jail reform."

The Superintendent: "Does the Government take any notice of the agitation made by the native press?" I: "The Government may not take any notice of the native press, but the press takes it as a sacred duty to bring instances of jail oppression to the notice of the Government. The Superintendent: "However, I shall punish you for the impertinence you have shown towards the Civil Surgeon and the Civil Hospital Assistant." I: "Of course you are quite at liberty to inflict any punishment upon me if I have committed any offence."

The Superintendent then wrote on my ticket: 6-1-'02: 14 days' irons.

G. A. D.

(d)—Education.

BASUMATI,  
April 3rd, 1902.

17. In giving his evidence before the Universities Commission, Mr. N. N.

Mr. N. N. Ghose's evidence  
before the Universities Commission.

Ghose, Principal of the Metropolitan Institution, Calcutta, said: "The existence of the Institution depends on the fees of students. \*\*\* Private colleges in Calcutta are supported not by endow-

ments that I am aware of. Their dependence on the fees of students tends in some cases, I fear, to a relaxation of discipline; but paradoxical as it may seem, it tends also to ensure at least a tolerably efficient teaching. The students do not tolerate an incompetent Professor, and he has to be sent away." Referring to the above, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April remarks that it cannot say whether or not these observations apply to all private colleges; but there is no doubt, as Mr. Ghose himself says, that they apply to the Metropolitan Institution. Before making his position secure, a Professor of that Institution must secure the good opinion of the students. This, no doubt, leads to a relaxation of discipline. This remark also applies to the school department of the Metropolitan Institution, as the Superintendent of the department must admit. We know that, as a matter of fact, a teacher, young in years, though highly qualified, had to give up his appointment because he could not secure the good opinion of the students. But the authorities of the Institution should know that it is not good teaching alone that secures for a teacher the good opinion of his students. We know of instances in which students are more attached to a particular teacher who, so far as good teaching goes, is less competent than another to whom they are less attached. There is such a thing as having a following among students or canvassing for their good opinion just as aspirants for University Fellowships canvas for votes among graduates. It is true, as Mr. Ghose says, that colleges under European management possess more prestige than those officered by natives. It is also true that a B.A. or an M.A. from the Presidency College more easily secures a Government appointment than his *confrère* from a native college. But such distinction exists also in other countries, for instance, an "Oxon" or a "Cantab" is more eagerly sought for and more highly paid than an M.A. of any other University in the United Kingdom. It is, at the same time, due that the best graduates from the native colleges are in no way inferior or the best graduates from the Presidency College. But it has also to be admitted that the Presidency College has not as yet completely lost its high reputation as an institution imparting the best teaching in the Province.



The Director of Public Instruction, Madras, said in his evidence before the Commission that the Mahomahopadhyayas in India could not approach European Sanskrit scholars in proficiency in teaching Sanskrit to University students. Of course, this brings a smile on our lips; but how can we, in the same breath, demur to the opinion that an English scholar greatly excels a native scholar in teaching English literature to University students? It is, however, not true that every English scholar is an efficient Professor. Experience tells us that native scholars oftentimes turn out to be better teachers of Shakespeare, Milton, Bacon, and Addison. But we must admit the superiority of English scholars in teaching the works of modern English authors. Native scholars are known to possess less efficiency in teaching modern English than in teaching classical English.

In illustration of his statement that even foremost English scholars may be but indifferent teachers of English literature to University students, Mr. Ghose had a covert fling at Mr. Tawney, formerly a Professor of English literature in the Presidency College, Calcutta. Some say this personal reference was not quite consistent with the ordinary rules of courtesy. We have nothing to do with that question: in a recent speech Lord Curzon had such a fling at a gentleman whom His Excellency did not choose to name, though the name suggested itself to many of his hearers by the nature of his references to him. But we are not in complete agreement with Mr. Ghose on this point. We have some experience of Mr. Tawney's mode of teaching. It is true, as Mr. Ghose says, that "he never looked at students in the face, but kept his head hanging over the text book and went on paraphrasing it." But it must be said that in his method of substituting synonyms for the words in the text, Mr. Tawney stands unrivalled even to this day. His profound knowledge of classical and modern English, of Latin, Greek, German, and French contributed to his eminent success as a paraphraser of the text. The substitution of appropriate synonyms rendered the text quite intelligible to the students—even of Shakespeare's dramas and Milton's epic. Intelligent students very much appreciated this mode of teaching, and took down notes; while those less intelligent could not appreciate it, and made themselves the laughing-stock of all by taking down irrelevant notes which had no reference at all to the text.

We cannot also approve of the manner in which Mr. Ghose spoke of Mr. (afterwards Sir Alfred) Croft's mode of teaching history. Mr. Croft was Professor of Philosophy and Logic at the Presidency College, Calcutta, and as such he has still no equal. Such a dry uninviting book as Whately's *Logic* was rendered attractive and pleasant reading to students by his excellent mode of teaching. He was very popular among students, and Mr. Sutcliffe, the then Principal of the Presidency College, appointed him to teach Bacon's *Essays*. He was not an adept at paraphrasing like Mr. Tawney, but his power of explaining and elucidating the text was of a very high order. If Babu Krishna Bihari Sen or Babu Joykrishna Sen had been alive at this time, they would have borne testimony to what we have said. There may be one or two still living who may do so.

Professor Cowell's mode of teaching history won for him and the Presidency College unsurpassed reputation. But since his departure the Presidency College has had no such Professor. Indeed, such Professors are very rare. When he taught Elphinstone's *History of India* or Hume's or Smith's *History of England* students were led to think that they were entertained to the reading of a good novel.

Besides Mr. Tawney, Mr. Grapel, another distinguished Professor of English literature in the Presidency College, Calcutta, was also much given to paraphrasing the text, which is so much harmful in the eyes of Mr. Ghose. We know that by following this mode he was very successful in teaching Pope's "Essay on Criticism" and "Temple of Fame" and Addison's "Cato;" and what was more remarkable, he paraphrased poetry into poetry. Perhaps Mr. Ghose has clean forgotten that in those times paraphrasing was in great request at the University examinations.

18. A teacher writes as follows in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April:—

The teachers on less than Rs. 50.

Those teachers in the Educational Department whose salaries are less than Rs. 50 have no grades to go through. This

SANJIVANI,  
April 3rd, 1902.



causes great hardship to them by keeping their salaries almost fixed. Is it not a matter of great regret that they who do their work with head and heart should spend the greater part of their lives, if not their whole lives, on fixed salaries? As a matter of fact, considering their qualifications, their salaries are quite inadequate. And if they cannot, in addition, expect increments, how can they be expected to perform their duties zealously? There is no greater struggle in the world than the struggle for existence. Want puzzles the brains of even the wisest of men. It is certain therefore that poor teachers must neglect their work if their circumstances are made somewhat easy. If there is an immediate need for reform in the Educational Department, and if it is desired that the Department should become more efficient every day, the salaries of these poorly-paid teachers ought to be first increased, thereby enabling them to devote their thoughts and energies to the education of their pupils: so long as this is not done, all educational reform will in the long run be ineffectual. It is an undeniable fact that in the field of lower education experienced and painstaking teachers are more useful and efficient than highly-educated graduates. Very good results can therefore be obtained if Government encourages such teachers, instead of trying to engage highly-educated men more largely in the field. It is a matter of great regret that this question has altogether been lost sight of in the innumerable proposals for educational reform, which are now-a-days coming from all quarters. We pray to Lord Curzon to consider whether the improvement of lower education does not depend on the improvement of the condition of the lower teachers. Does any one take the pains to enquire how many hundreds of these teachers are leading lives embittered by the thought that all hope of prosperity is lost to them? There are among them many able and educated men who could earn fortunes in other departments. We pray to Lord Curzon to create a grade for the teachers whose salaries are below Rs. 50.

SANJIVANI.

19. A correspondent, writing to the same paper, says that the abolition of the inspecting panditships by the Pabna District Board has been, as had been anticipated, productive of much evil. The Additional Sub-Inspector of Schools cannot find time to inspect

Effect of the abolition of inspecting panditships in the Pabna district.

the *pathshalas* as the inspecting pandits did. There is unusual delay in passing the *gurus'* bills, and this causes hardship to them, especially in the Ullapara Circle. Then, the examination fees of the lower primary candidates used to be collected by the inspecting pandits; but the collection of these fees this year in the Dulai Circle alone has cost the District Board about Rs. 38, the Additional Sub-Inspector having had no time to do the work himself. Will the District Magistrate of Pabna inquire and see if the change has not been for the worse? Then, again, the Lower Primary examination was held in November, but the result is not yet out. This is causing positive loss of time to students.

PRATIVASI,  
April 7th, 1902.

20. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th April has the following in English:—

Education in the Bengal Provincial Budget.

The Bengal Provincial Budget shows that the allotment for education this year will be nearly 42½ lakhs, in which is included the special grant of 10 lakhs given by the Government of India. With such a large sum at his disposal the Lieutenant-Governor will be able to carry out many improvements in the general scheme of education and give effect to some of the recommendations made by the Simla Educational Conference. Primary education must command considerable attention, but here the initial difficulty will be in the matter of properly trained teachers. Under the system recently introduced teachers are put through a three-months' course at Kurseong, one batch after another being sent there; but this is a mere makeshift. It is now intended, we believe, to start training Colleges of a good type, and to equip them with an efficient staff.

The Bengal Government also propose to improve the prospects of the Educational Service, and a new appointment of Deputy Director of Public Instruction is to be created. It has not yet been stated from what class of officers the Deputy Director will be drawn, or what will be the emoluments of the post. So far as education is concerned, the Bengal Government also



seems to be fond of a head of gold and feet of clay. Before creating an appointment of Deputy Director, the Bengal Government should once more think of the education of the class of men at whose hands the Kindergarten system and the recent absurd scheme of instruction on a vernacular basis, are to have their trial. They, we are afraid, are not educated enough to profit by a course of training in a training school.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

21. The *Sanshodhini* [Chittagong] of the 7th March, after praising the extraordinary professional skill of Chandra Mukhi, a midwife practising at Chittagong for the last twenty years, urges the importance of making arrangements for the training of a few apprentices as midwives under her guidance and supervision. The District Board and the Municipality of Chittagong ought to consider the suggestion and take the lead in the matter. A few rupees, spent on this object, will benefit the people of Chittagong by placing within reach competent midwives, trained under the direct supervision of such an experienced and able midwife as Chandra Mukhi.

SANSHODHINI,  
Mar. 7th, 1902.

22. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 1st April says that a hot controversy is going on for some time between the elected members of the Mymensingh District Board on one side, and the Magistrate-Chairman and some of the nominated members on the other, over the appointment of an Engineer on a salary of Rs. 800 per month. The Magistrate-Chairman is of opinion that a man, who does not deserve this high salary, ought not to be placed in charge of the public works of the Mymensingh District Board. For some time past, persistent efforts are being made to bring in a European for this office; but nothing could be done because of the strenuous opposition of the elected members. When the works of the District Board can, without risking efficiency, be entrusted to an efficient overseer, it is inexplicable why the Magistrate-Chairman should insist on imposing such a heavy burden on the District Board. The conduct of the nominated members, who are supporting the Magistrate-Chairman, is perhaps more strange.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 1st, 1902.

23. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April says that during the last summer although Calcutta suffered greatly from insufficiency of water-supply, yet the municipal authorities paid no heed to the cries of the sufferers. But during the following rainy season and winter the supply was increased and was found to be sufficient. The municipal authorities again seem determined to diminish the supply as soon as the hot season has set in. Many of the street hydrants have been closed. This has caused great suffering to the poor people who have not water-pipes in their houses.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
April 2nd, 1902.

24. Referring to the scheme for the improvement of Calcutta, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April says that if it be in contemplation to spend three crores of rupees on the improvement of Calcutta, the rate-payers ought to be given an assurance in unequivocal language that they will not be called upon to contribute to this vast expenditure; because the rate-payers are very poor. Mr. Greer, Chairman of the Corporation, uttered some words of assurance the other day; but those words have not produced the desired effect. Words of assurance must come from the lips of the Viceroy himself, in order to be assuring. Of the three crores of rupees, the Government of India will contribute about 15 or 20 lakhs at the most. The remaining 280 lakhs will have to be supplied by the Government of Bengal and the Corporation of Calcutta. So it seems almost certain that the Corporation of Calcutta will have to contribute a very heavy sum towards the improvement scheme. But where will the money come from? To be sure, by raising a loan. That means that the rate-payers will be called upon to pay the interest on the loan; and the rates will be raised, as a matter of course.

BASUMATI,  
April 3rd, 1902.

The Commission that sat some years ago under the presidency of Mr. Justice Trevelyan recommended the imposition of taxes on articles of commerce for



the purpose of finding ways and means for the improvement of Calcutta. But this recommendation has not been heeded, nor is there any hope of its being at any time heeded. It is the mercantile Anglo-Indian community that virtually rule India. They are sure to raise a howl of protest against any proposal to tax articles of commerce; and Viceroys and Lieutenant-Governors will not dare go against them. Nor is the Government of India disposed to make over to the Corporation the *abkari* revenue of Calcutta. The fact is, the rate-payers are in anxious suspense. They seriously apprehend that they may be deprived of their morsel of food by being compelled to pay for the construction of broad streets in the metropolis of India.

SAMAY,  
April 4th, 1902.

25. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th April says that the valuation of houses in the new assessment in the Calcutta Municipality has been most arbitrary and unreasonable. In all previous assessments, a deduction was allowed on account of the natural depreciation of buildings; but no such deduction is allowed in the present assessment, although, as a matter of fact, depreciation has gone on uninterruptedly since the last assessment. Not only is the natural depreciation not being taken into account, but, what is more strange, houses that have not undergone any repair or improvement—not even to the extent of receiving a single brick or a handful of lime or sand or *soorkee*—are being assessed to a higher value than was considered proper six years ago! And this is being done on the basis of what the assessor calls “the present cost of construction”! Is not this *zulm*, pure and simple? Everybody knows that since the last assessment houses in Calcutta have been much depreciated on account of damages caused by earthquake, storm and rain. But the new assessor thinks that their value has gone up instead! He is even reported to say that his predecessor had made low assessments. Perhaps he has not intelligence enough to understand that such a plea for forcing up assessment every six years would only bring a smile on the face of an intelligent man and go to establish the inefficiency of all previous assessors. We know that the last assessments were made by the late Babu Madhu Sudan Rudra under instructions from Mr. Cooper, the present assessor. There were innumerable objections, and the Vice-Chairman had to fight hard to meet the objections, and in a large number of cases had to come to a compromise. How, then, is the same Mr. Cooper justified in declaring the last assessments low and inadequate?

NAVAYUG,  
April 5th, 1902.

A plague case in Calcutta not noticed by the municipal employes.

26. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 5th April says that on the 2nd instant at 10 A.M. a woman, who sold pulses in Simla Bazar in Calcutta, was found dead in her shop. It was discovered that she had died of plague, but no one knew when she had died. All the pulses in her shop were carried to the roof of a godown on the eastern side of the bazar, and will probably be sold afterwards. It is a matter of wonder that none of the municipal employes, whose duty it is to find out plague cases in the town, were found at the place during the whole day. These people shorten their duty by taking the number of plague cases at the burning ghat. The beat constable also took no notice of the woman's death.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
April 7th, 1902.

Small pox in the Dacca district

27. A report has reached the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 7th April of the prevalence of small-pox in villages Armahal, Foorshail, Bairajadi in Bikrampur in the Dacca district. Many cases have proved fatal. But no measures have been taken to arrest the progress of the epidemic. Will the District Magistrate of Dacca be so good as to send a well qualified medical man to the villages, with a supply of medicines?

FARIDPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Mar. 29th, 1902.

Management of an estate by the Court of Wards in the Faridpur district

(f)—Questions affecting the land.  
28. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th March says that the management of the Kakemar estate of the late Babu Syama Charan Chatterji of Madaripur in the Faridpur district has been taken over by the Court of Wards, and the Court has appointed Babu Durga Das Banerji Manager of the estate. The annual income of the estate is about Rs. 8,000; but the amount which is being spent on the education of the three sons of the deceased Babu Syama Charan, seems to be out of all proportion to the income. The eldest son is being educated at the Calcutta Presidency College, and his monthly



expenses there come up to nearly Rs. 50. The two other boys were being educated at the Madaripur H. C. E. School. But of late they have been removed to Faridpur for education; and this has not only led to larger expenses, but, what is more, the boys, who are only 13 and 9 years respectively, have been deprived of all opportunities of visiting their mother now and then. The other day Rs. 200 were spent on a short trip to Calcutta made by these two boys. It is a matter of serious doubt whether the late Babu Syama Charan Chatterji, if he had been alive, would have spent so much on the education of his boys. When Mr. Sharp was Collector of Faridpur, the estate of the late Babu Rukmini Kanta Sen, of Japsar, came to be managed by the Court of Wards. While under that management, the estate was put up to auction; and now the sons of Rukmini Babu would be too glad to get work on Rs. 20 per month! The late Babu Syama Charan Chatterji was also a rigid Hindu of the orthodox type; and we ask why his boys are given tea and biscuit every morning? Hindu wards must be made to conform to the manners, customs and ways of their fathers; and their anglicising must be deprecated.

29. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 5th April publishes a communicated article over the signature of "Chandra Kumar Chatterji, Bantra, Howrah," embodying a prayer to the Viceroy on behalf of the cultivators of the

An appeal to the Viceroy on behalf of the cultivators of the soil

soil. He prays that before amending the tenancy law for the benefit of the landlords, His Excellency may be pleased to see his way to add to the rights of the cultivators and to place them on a more independent footing in respect of their landlords. In the first place, instances are not rare where the landlords actually stand in the way of the cultivators exerting themselves to improve the soil. In lowlands crops are often destroyed by rain-water collecting for want of proper outlets. The cultivator proposes to the landlord to excavate a tank in the middle of the fields, and thereby raise the level of the lands lying around. But the landlord demands an exorbitant price for his permission; and the matter drops there. Take another instance. Suppose the water of a tank, which supplies drinking water to the cultivator gets polluted. The cultivator proposes to dewater and re-excavate the tank. But here again the exorbitant demand of the landlord frustrates the cultivator's objects, and the cultivator suffers all the evils of drinking unwholesome water. Will His Excellency mind giving the cultivators the right to carry out such essential improvements independently of the landlords?

The law provides that a purchaser of an occupancy tenure shall deposit at the Registry office fees for a mutation of names in the landlord's *sarishta*. But it often happens that the landlord refuses acceptance of the money and demands a larger sum of money for the purpose. Will His Excellency be pleased to declare by law that the landlords shall be bound to accept the fees which are deposited in the Registry office?

The other prayers are as follow:—(a) a permanent rent; (b) equal rights of the cultivator in *bastee* and cultivable lands; (c) a full, unrestricted proprietary right of the cultivators to trees planted by them; (d) right to excavate tanks and build *pucca* houses.

There is only one way of improving the condition of the cultivators of the soil; and that is to afford them facilities for making improvements in the soil and to place them in a position of independence in respect of the landlords except in the matter of payment of rent. They cultivators pray to His Excellency that he may be pleased to carry out these suggestions in amending the tenancy law.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

30. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 29th March says it is in contemplation to construct a road from Faridpur to Madaripur *via* Bhanga, together with a bridge, for the purpose of running tram-cars with engines.

A proposed tramway in the Faridpur district.

This will cost about Rs. 60,000, as at present estimated. But will not this be a waste of public money when a road may be constructed from Faridpur to Munsii Bazar and a canal may be excavated from Munsii Bazar to Madaripur, at a total cost of Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000? At all events, a careful inquiry as to

RANGALAYA,  
April 5th, 1902.

FARIDPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Mar. 29th, 1902.



the relative cost and advantages ought to be made before taking in hand works that would cost the people Rs. 60,000.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 1st, 1902.

A contemplated road in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

31. A correspondent, writing to the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 1st April from Tangail, says that although there is a *pucca* District Board road from Tangail to Pakulya, passing through Delduar, the local Board contemplates constructing another road from Delduar to Pakulya. This would not only entail waste of public money, but also cause loss to many talukdars and jotedars of the locality. Will the authorities reconsider the matter?

RANGALAYA,  
April 5th, 1902.

Coolies at the Balliaghata station, Eastern Bengal State Railway.

32. The *Rangalya* [Calcutta] of the 5th April complains that the railway coolies or porters at the Balliaghata station charge very highly. The other day we had occasion to go to Magrahat and had some luggage with us. Half an anna should have been a cooly's proper remuneration for carrying the luggage to the train. But two annas were demanded. We complained to the booking clerk, the ticket checker, and lastly to the station-master who, instead of listening to our complaint, uttered some abusive words towards us. At last we had to pay two annas, inasmuch as none but railway coolies have admission into the railway platform. Is not this *zulm*?

RANGALAYA.

No waiting accommodation for intermediate class passengers at the Howrah railway station.

33. The same paper complains that there is no waiting accommodation for intermediate class passengers at the Howrah railway station. This causes inconvenience and hardship and ought to attract the attention of the authorities.

RANGALAYA.

The channels of the Bengal rivers.

34. Referring to the Bengal Provincial Budget, the same paper regrets that no provision is made in it to open up the channels of several rivers in Southern Bengal, such as the Ichhamati, the Churni, the Bhairab, the Betravati, the Jumna, the Saraswati and the Bhagirathi. We are persuaded that the condition of the villages in Bengal would greatly improve if the channels of these rivers were opened up. It is a wonder that it is water and fish that have become scarce in Bengal! Malarial fever has been working havoc in Bengal for many long years, and carrying off people in tens of thousands. Will not Government move its little finger to check its ravages.

RANGALAYA.

Electric traction in Calcutta.

writes as follows:—

We are against such traction. The copper conducting wire overhead may break down or hang down in tempests and kill passers-by. Birds perching on it will drop down dead. If it is in any way connected by a conductor with a car, the lives of the passengers in it will be endangered. The electric tram-cars do not even run very fast. If the upper conducting wire breaks down, the consequence will be very serious. The wheel which runs under the wire is so small as to get out of it, and stop the motion of the car and extinguish the lights. The wires will prevent the passage of high images of gods and goddesses and other religious structures through the streets. If the lines attached to children's kites happen to touch the wires, the lives of the little ones may be endangered.

MEDINI BANDHAY,  
April 7th, 1902.

A railway complaint.

36. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 7th April says that the intermediate and third class passengers at the Kharagpur station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway suffer much inconvenience and hardship for want of proper waiting accommodation. The passengers have to wait at the "Mussafarkhana" which, however, gives them no protection against the sun and the rain. We have brought this to the notice of the authorities on several occasions; but in vain. We appeal to Lord Curzon who is so mindful of the comforts and conveniences of native railway passengers.

PRATIVASI,  
April 7th, 1902.

A railway complaint.

37. A correspondent, writing to the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th April, says that the passengers at the Kolaghat station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway suffer



various inconveniences and hardships. There is absolutely no waiting accommodation—no, not even a shed. To reach the platform from the place where tickets are sold, a passenger must ascend a height of about 40 feet by means of narrow steps. Add to all this the oppression of the *chaprasis*—their words of abuse and insult to the passengers. The train stops only for three minutes, and the number of passengers being large, there is great elbowing and pushing. The booking clerk commences selling tickets only fifteen minutes before the arrival of the train; and this causes rush and confusion.

(h)—General.

38. Referring to the debate on the last budget of the Government of India, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd April writes as follows:—

Mr. Gokhale's Budget speech.

Both the Financial Member and the Viceroy spoke in reply to Mr. Gokhale's speech. But their replies disappointed even the official members, who had expected them to be as vigorous as Mr. Gokhale's speech had been. The replies they found to be no replies at all.

Sir Edward Law said that he had not anticipated that Mr. Gokhale would attack the budget in the manner in which he had done, and that he was not prepared to answer him. True; the rule is that one must play only the part fixed for one beforehand and play no more. Why should play be made painful by discussion?

Why is such an important subject as the budget gone through like a play? Is it reasonable that debates on important subjects should be stopped on such frivolous grounds as want of time and unpreparedness? Why should there be want of time? Why is not the time fixed for debate increased? It is the practice to conduct all business in the Council within a fixed time. The Council-room seldom resounds with the voice of opposition. Mr. Gokhale's attack on the budget therefore astonished the members. Not even His Excellency could shine with his wonted brilliancy in replying to Mr. Gokhale.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd April writes as follows:—

What does the increase of revenue mean?

An increase in the revenue of a country is generally accompanied by an increase in its administrative expenses owing to the application of more money to the promotion of the welfare of its people. Again in the Government of a country by itself, the money that is paid by the people as revenue returns to them in some shape or other, and increase of revenue is a sign of prosperity rather than of distress and should be welcomed instead of being dreaded. But this is not the form of Government prevailing in India. The prosperous condition of the revenue of the Government of India has almost nothing to do with the material condition of the Indian people. In India increase of revenue creates not hope, but fear in the Indian mind.

It is the fall in the value of silver, and not an increasing demand for money in the country, that has been the thing which has increased the revenue of the Government of India during the last eight or ten years. When the value of silver fell, new taxes were imposed upon the people in order to meet the Home charges, and pay exchange compensation to European officers in India. It is these taxes that have caused the increase of revenue. This increase has, therefore, been made for imperial needs and not to supply any needs of the people. The greater part of it goes to England in the shape of exchange compensation and never returns to them. This shows that they not only gain nothing by it, but lose much on account of it. The Finance Minister may rejoice over this increasing revenue, but we have not only no reason to join our voice with his, but we have reason enough to be frightened.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th April writes as follows:—

The Government and agriculture in India.

In a country like India in which nine-tenths of the population depend on agriculture, it is the duty of the Government to spend large sums of money on its improvement. But the Government of India is not so anxious to improve agriculture as it is to devise new plans for extracting money from the people. During the last 20 years the Government has expended 450 crores of rupees on the construction of railways, but it has not expended even

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA-BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
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April 3rd, 1902.

HITAVADI,  
April 4th, 1902.



one-third of this sum on irrigation. The other day the Viceroy said that six crores and ninety lakh bighas of land had been brought under cultivation during the last 20 years. The correctness of this statement has been disputed by Mr. Digby. Granting, however, that His Excellency's statement is correct, it does not remove the stigma which nevertheless attaches to the Government. Because while the extent of arable land has increased by six crores and ninety lakh bighas, the population of the country has increased by nine and-a-half crores. Hence not even one bigha falls to the lot of each member of this increased population. On the other hand, the greater part of this land is used in tea, coffee and other plantations. The increase in the area of arable land has, therefore, done no good to the people. On the contrary, the percentage of the population depending on agriculture has increased from 70 to 85. What wonder then that the condition of the agricultural population should become worse every day. And our hearts sink within us as we see how little has the Government done to ameliorate it. There are no doubt one or two experimental fields in the country conducted by the Government, but no one can say that the illiterate cultivators of the country have derived any benefit from them. Neither does the Government try to make them fit for these cultivators. It tries to waive all its responsibilities by laying on the shoulders of the money-lender the whole blame of impoverishing the people. Sometimes it even indulges in making such laws as are ruinous both to the cultivator and to the money-lender. As a result of these laws the cultivator has lost his permanent hold on the land, the money-lender is unable to attach his debtor's land for realising his due, and his door has been closed against the cultivator. But has the Government made any arrangements by which cultivators may be able to borrow money at small interest? Has it tried to teach them how land is scientifically manured and crops are produced at smaller cost? No; its eyes were turned towards other objects, like enforcing harsh forest laws and enhancing the salt-duty.

HITAVADI,  
April 4th, 1902.

41. Referring to the Budget, the same paper writes as follows:—

The salt-duty.

"In 1876-77, when Government increased the salt-duty, it promised that the increase would be repealed at the earliest possible opportunity. Afterwards Sir John Strachey, Sir Evelyn Baring, and other Finance Ministers had to admit that increase of the duty was attended with a diminished consumption of an article which is an indispensable necessity and the reduced use of which shortens life. Although an indirect tax and therefore supposed not to be keenly felt by the people, it sucks out their life-blood like the American vampire. Does it redound to the glory of the British Government not to remove such a tax? The preservation of life should be cared for before education, hygiene, administration, public works, and commerce. We call this a good opportunity of reducing the tax.

HITAVADI.

42. The same paper says that the office of the Inspector-General of Jails in Bengal was not closed on the last Good Friday. This is quite against the orders of the Government.

A public office not closed on Good Friday.

AL PUNCH,  
April 5th, 1902.

43. *Al Punch* [Patna city] of the 5th April says that the attitude taken up by the Hindi Pracharini Sabha against Urdu is calculated to wound the feelings of the Musalmans. It is really not the fact that pure Hindi is the spoken language of the people of Bihar. Hindi has for a long time ceased to be the spoken language of India. The fact is that the educated people of Hindustan Proper and Bihar speak pure Urdu, and that the language spoken by the illiterate and rural population of those provinces is a corrupt form of Urdu containing many old Hindi words. This language does not follow any grammar at all. It is only from a hostile motive that the Sabha wants the text-books of the vernacular schools of Bihar to be written in Hindi.

All that the Sabha can say is that the rural Hindus of Bihar write the Urdu language in the Deva Nagri character, and that the Musalmans and the educated Hindus of Bihar write it in the Persian character. The Sabha may therefore reasonably demand that the Urdu vernacular text-books should be written both



in the Deva Nagri and in the Persian character, and that students should be given the option of learning that language in either character.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th April says that Lord Curzon has decided to erect the Victoria Memorial Hall at a distance of 400 cubits from the Fort, thereby saving the Ochterlony monument. But by doing this the old rule that no buildings should be erected in the precincts of the Fort will be violated. Is it also right that the holy memorial of the late Empress Victoria should be erected so close to a river and a fort? The bank of the river may give way any day, and the fort may one day resound with the report of booming artillery.

BANGAVASI,  
April 5th, 1902.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

45. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th March does not approve of the proposal of the Calcutta *Englishman* to abolish the income-tax and make up the loss in revenue thus incurred by the imposition of other taxes or rates. The writer, however, suggests that the minimum taxable limit under the income-tax law should be raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000, as by that means a large number of men of limited income would receive substantial relief.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
Mar. 29th, 1902.

46. The same paper regrets that the assault case instituted by a Mahratta Brahmin clerk of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, stationed at Kharagpur, in the district of Midnapore, in the Court of a first-class Magistrate in that station against Mr. Bayley, the Traffic Superintendent of that railway, should have been illegally transferred to the Court of Mr. Marr, the Joint-Magistrate in charge, and there ended in a *fiasco*, the Joint-Magistrate holding the opinion that the laying of shoes on the back of an Indian gentleman, whatever that expression may mean, is not a criminal act, but an act meant to teach civility. The writer urges that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor should take notice of the conduct of Mr. Marr and see that justice is done to the injured party, for nothing is more calculated to bring British justice into contempt than the toleration of the vagaries of young Magistrates like Mr. Marr.

UTKALDIPIKA.

47. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that about 30,000 pilgrims, mostly from Bengal, visited Puri during the last *Dole Jatra* festival, and that with the exception of a few cholera cases, the ceremonies in connection with the *Dol* passed off quietly, the police managing the visitors in the Jaganath temple with skill and dexterity.

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48. A correspondent of the same paper states that a tank situated on the road between Cuttack and Dhenkanal, near village Khantani, needs urgent re-excavation. The water of this tank is used by many passengers travelling by that road, and it is necessary on sanitary ground, that its water should be made fit for drinking purposes. The correspondent hopes that the authorities will induce the Raja of Athgarh, in whose State the tank lies, to do something in the matter.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The death of Mr. Herald, the Magistrate of Cuttack.

49. All the native papers of Orissa lament the death of Mr. Herald, the Magistrate of Cuttack, who was on sick leave and who died comparatively young.

ALL THE NATIVE  
PAPERS.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

50. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 30th March says that Babu Kamini Kumar Chanda has again been elected Vice-Chairman of the Silchar Municipality. Babu Abanti Nath Datta was also a candidate for the office. The votes were equally divided between the two, and the Deputy Commissioner's vote decided in favour of Kamini Babu. He, however, has

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been Vice-Chairman for the last nine or ten years; and as he has often to go away from the town on professional engagements, it would have been better if the other candidate had been elected. Kamini Babu laboured hard on the occasion of the Viceroy's visit to Silchar, and perhaps his labour has been rewarded in this way.

SILCHAR,  
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Want of waiting accommodation  
at the Badarpur junction railway  
station.

51. The same paper says that there is no waiting accommodation for passengers in such a big railway station as the Badarpur Junction. This causes inconvenience to passengers.

SILCHAR.

Printing of question-papers for  
the Silchar Zilla School.

52. The same paper says that the question-papers for the annual examinations of the Silchar Zilla School were very badly printed. In some instances there was even delay in printing. Consequently certain examinations could not be held on appointed days. Thus Akshay Babu disregarded the interests of the students in order to put some money into his son-in-law's pocket by entrusting him with the work of printing the papers. Will the Director of Public Instruction be pleased to inquire?

SILCHAR.

An over-worked officer in Haila-  
kandi in the Cachar district.

53. The Hailakandi correspondent of the same paper says that Maulvi Muhammad Sadir, the second officer of Hailakandi, in the Cachar district, has to do all sorts of work—civil, criminal, Collectorate, Treasury, registration, etc. The result is that there is considerable delay in disposing of work, to the great inconvenience and hardship of the public. Cannot some work be made over to Babu Harish Chundra Sen, who has recently been promoted to be a Sub-Deputy Collector?

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
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BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 12th April 1902.*